

December

FRS NEWS

issue 25 ★

2002

Dear FRS-Holland listener!

"*FRS-News*" - under this name we provide you with the latest FRS-Holland news. We aim to optimize the information towards our listeners. Not only *you* but also *we* as a radio station benefit from this. We can supply you with info concerning our previous broadcast(s) and inform about future plans. The latter will certainly mean (at least: we hope) **more listeners** tune in to our future broadcasts as you are informed ahead of the broadcast! This Newssheet enables us to tell you what's going on. For us the advantage is we don't need to repeat the same info in each personal letter. Everyone dropping us a line receives this general Newssheet and in addition you receive some **personal notes** as well providing you took the trouble to include some personal notes in your letter as well. In other words: *we'd love some personal info, criticism, comments etc. rather than only a standard pre-copied reception report.*

For only 6.00/ € 4.00/ US\$ 6.00 * you can subscribe to the **FRS Newsletter** for 12 months. It contains the most important SW Free Radio news, offshore news, News from around the World, Dutch media (radio) news, Internet and of course FRS-Holland infos. Each FRS Newsletter edition is *packed* with news. Normally sample copies cost 1.50/ € 1.00/ US\$ 2.00/ 2 irc's. Special offer till the end of January 2002:

now you can convince yourself that the FRS Newsletter is *the* source of info when it comes to (free) radio. Order #36 (the december 2001 edition) for only.... 0.50 **! (cash or in Dutch/ German stamps).

* German & Dutch people may pay a five euro banknote plus one dollar/two 0.50 stamps.

** British people pay 1 IRC or 50p.

Now some information concerning FRS-Holland's programmes which are based on "*a balance between music and information*" being the well-known FRS philosophy which has proved to be very popular and successful over the past 20 years!

FRS-HOLLAND NEWS

Hello and welcome in this 2002 edition of FRS News, not to be confused with the *FRS Newsletter*. This one is for free and is entirely focused on FRS-Holland as a independent SW Free Radio station. The *FRS Newsletter* is providing you with the *latest news* from the wonderful world of radio. Order a sample copy and you will discover it is worth reading... A special hello to those who wrote in for the very first time to FRS-Holland. Welcome along and hope this won't be your last letter to us.

FRS Broadcasting Activities

The past few months FRS carried out three broadcasts on SW. Similar to 2001, September (22nd) saw a 4 hour broadcast on 41 metres 7450 which was aired for a period of more than 24 hours. Response was not as good as last year most likely because of less favourable band conditions. But al in all we are satisfied with the number of listeners dropping us a line.

The **FRS 22nd birthday** pxs went out on Sun October 27th. Minutes before the actual trm would commence, we decided to change frequency from 7475 to 7480 kHz. There was "something" audible on 7475, not strong, but as we could not directly identify it, we decided to play safe and shifted frequency to the clear 7480 channel. Early in the morning propagation was good but that changed in the course of the morning. By then fading & noise badly affected the strong signal. Sad but true. On 48 metres a loop tape was informing the listeners that FRS was on 41 metres. The message was played on 6210 and later that morning on 6275 kHz. *Programme wise* (and that's what it's all about) the listening audience was offered a wide variety of music, DX informations and programme items. It seems every year, the number of different persons taking the trouble to write in, is decreasing. That's very discouraging & disappointing but it seems to be *reality* in SW free radio land nowadays. In the mean time the special October 2002 QSL card has been forwarded to those who send in a *snailmail* report. We will always reply to those sending in an E-mail but it's our policy those people only get a verification by E-mail, they won't receive a QSL. Despite less mail, FRS-Holland will go on trying to entertain listeners with

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the Netherlands

professional programmes, various interesting radio-related programme items, a wide range of quality pop music, listeners' letters and a serious DX Programme.

December 21st/22nd FRS had planned a 5+ hour X-Mas broadcast via a relay facility to be aired on 7475 kHz/41 metres. The broadcast would have been repeated several times over the weekend (24 hours). In the late afternoon of Sat Dec. 21st it came as a very annoying and disappointing message that the package enclosing the programmes, had not arrived in time. The package was sent early Monday morning as a special delivery usually taking two days. Yes, we know that the postal services are very busy during the X-Mas Holiday Season with the millions of X-Mas cards being sent. But even though we feel it's hard & unbelievable that during the only period in the year, the postal services are really very busy, they are not able to deliver a package sent as a special delivery within 5 days! Late Saturday afternoon December 21st we had a big problem. The idea all the efforts would have been for nothing made us decide to clutch at a straw. Mid evening we had arranged a site for Sunday morning, under normal circumstances this would have been impossible but not this time. Sun morning Dec. 22nd at 08.20 CET we arrived at the transmitting site with a car full of equipment. At 09.00 all was ready for the broadcast including the erection of the antenna system. After checking several freqs, we decided to tune the tx to 6210 kHz. Empty and clear. And then the problems started. For the first time we had recorded all pxs in MP3 format on one CD-R. First we didn't get any audio into the modulator and when that problem was solved it appeared that the MP3 player was not putting out a constant audio stream. The audio was frequently interrupted, little pieces were skipped etc. This was caused by the MP3 player's memory. Anyway, we prepared all well and for that reason a cassette deck and the original programme cassettes were also taken with us. But this was not the end of the technical troubles that Sunday morning. The very bad (and wet!) circumstances caused RF feedback on the cassette machine. It took some time before we managed to have a more or less loud and clean audio output into the modulator. We were forced to decrease the output power by some 35%, in addition we had to lower the modulation as well. At 09.45 CET, some 40 minutes after the tx was switched on, we had a satisfactory signal with good audio. Judging the E-mail reports we received plus the telephone reports during the transmission, there is only one conclusion: all worked very well and the 90W unmodulated carrier power provided a strong signal in our target area. Between 09.00- 09.50 CET FRS was received in the USA. Pxs ran until just before 14.00 CET and the schedule was slightly adjusted. Part 3 & 4 of the FRS Story were not aired. The 2002 FRS X-Mas Party included Paul Graham's FRS Golden Show, Off Beat by Mark Jones, Santa Peter is coming to town hosted by Peter Verbruggen and FRS Goes DX-Mas # 1 & 2. Apart from the music, there were a number of features including FRS extracts from Dec. 1987, the Phrase that pays, listeners' letters etc. BTW: it was our 20th annual X-Mas broadcast so far and for that reason a special QSL card will be issued !!

Festive Season (*a FRS Winter Tale*)

This FRS News edition is being compiled just before X-Mas and we can not inform you about the results of the other broadcasts which have been put out. The X-Mas Season will see at least one (but likely more) test(s) to North America on 48 and/or 41 metres in the early morning hours. Possibly on the 25th and/or 26th and 29th of December! We still believe (and the same was already said a year ago) there is certainly a need for the kind of programming FRS is putting out. Not only us but also from stations like European Music Radio, Marabu, Nova, WMR etc.). That strengthens our conviction to continue in 2003 with quality programming on SW!! Good news: a fourth presenter will soon join the FRS ranks. *Frank Carson* will be doing his debut show either in February or March. And that means that the period of silence following the X-Mas Season will only take 2 or 3 months rather than more than half a year!

New FRS presenters

September *Paul Graham* made his debut show on FRS-Holland. Paul is a very experienced presenter and we are very happy he has joined our presenting team. Paul is hosting the FRS Golden Show with a great mix of familiar and rare oldie tracks from 60s & 70s. In his programme he also features archive recordings from legendary SW stations who used to broadcast in the past. Welcome Paul!

Our next broadcast will see another new voice: Frank Carson. Frank is already to be heard on Radio Nova and from 2003 onwards he will be part of the FRS team. Frank plays a great music selection from the 1975-1985 era and his show will contain one or two interesting items as well.

Of course we will also mention Mark Jones who's doing the Off Beat programme, presented in German. Mark plays a great flavour of alternative tracks as well as some familiar ones. Last but not least: Peter Verbruggen is the only one who survived those more than 22 years FRS is now on the air. Peter is doing two pxs: FRS Magazine and FRS Goes DX. In FRS Magazine he plays quality pop/ rock music interspersed by brief news items. FRS Goes DX is the longest running DX Show on the SW Free Radio bands and at the same time one of the very few regular DX Shows to be heard on the SW Free Radio bands these days.

Special QSL-Series

We already planned it in 2002 but that didn't work out. 2003 will see the introduction of a special series of QSL cards. That means that you have to collect four different QSLs covering one subject. Four different QSL cards together make up one complete collection. All QSLs will be in full colour, the first QSLs will be issued for correct reception reports for the upcoming broadcast.

Future Activities

Next broadcast will take place in February. We hope to be on air on the 16th. Ahead we will inform the listeners via E-mail.

FRS Sales Productions

FRS Sales Productions offers you a wide range of video and audio tapes from radio stations all over the world. At this moment a large number of new recordings (more than 100 hours) have been added to the list. And still more new recordings from 60s, 70s & 80s will be soon added. All prices in German Marks & Dutch guilders have been converted into Euros. In case you are interested in obtaining the complete brandnew FRS Sales Prod. Catalogue, then send 1.50/ 2 IRCs/ US \$2.00/ £ 1.00 to FRS Sales Productions, P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands. Special offers will be made via the quarterly FRS Newsletter and on the Internet. We offer tapes & videos for incredible prices, special discounts are given when ordering more than 5 tapes. And: recordings can also be obtained on MD or CD!! It's worth while to get hold of the revised catalogue, so where are you waiting for?? The FRS SALES LIST 2003 contains hundreds of recordings from radio stations all over the world. It's also available via Email (attachment) in Ascii, Word or Corel WP9 format (free). It's worth while to get hold of the revised catalogue!!

Internet / Snailmail Adresse(s)

Internet:	< frs.holland@hccnet.nl >.
Snailmail:	P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

New: FRS E-News

We have introduced the E-(lectronic) News which will be forwarded to all of you whose E-mail address is stored in our Internet addressbook. The E-News will be sent on an irregular basis. Important: if you have an Email address and you would like to

receive up-to-date FRS-Holland news, than send us your Email address and we will add it to our address book. By the way: our website will get a new, fresh look in future.

May we take this opportunity to wish all of you a prosperous & healthy 2003 (....with great radio sounds coming out of your radio set....)

FRS-Holland Jingle CD

Early 2000 we introduced the FRS Jingle CD. Eversince numerous CDs were sent to people all over Europe. We received very positive and enthusiastic response.. The FRS Jingle CD covers digitalized stuff covering almost 20 years of FRS *jingling* divided into eight sections. It starts with the early 80s and ends with the millennium set produced in 1999. 226 jingles for only 13.50 / £ 9. / f 30 / US\$ 15. You can send the money cash to our maildrop: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG in Herten, the Netherlands. A great asset to your jingle collection....the FRS-Holland Jingle CD. In case you are interested: we do offer a special Jingle CD info-sheet. Or: order the info via Email. Quick and easy.

The phrase that pays

☞ During future shows we will mention the names of six FRS listeners. That means: each presenter mentions in his show two names, one in the first part and one in the later part using the slogan: "Right now also.....(name listener)..... is listening to FRS-Holland". This item is not part of the DX-Show!! Any of those six persons hearing his name on air in the above slogan, must send us a letter telling us at what time his name was mentioned. He can win himself a free radio cassette recording making a choice from the comprehensive FRS Sales Productions catalogue.

We would like to thank you for your support and hope we may soon hear from you again!!

FRS-Holland, not just a station but a tradition**